United Nations S/2014/440

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 June 2014

Original: English

Letter dated 25 June 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the letter dated 25 June 2014 addressed to you from H.E. Hoshyar Zebari, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohamed Ali **Alhakim**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

14-56281 (E) 270614 270614

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 25 June 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

On 30 April 2014, the people of Iraq, with a great sense of national resolve that was witnessed by the entire world, defied the terrorists and went to the ballot box in great numbers in order to elect its representatives in the new Council of Representatives and choose a new Government, in accordance with the Constitution and in order to sustain its commitment to the political and democratic process.

The Independent Electoral Commission, with the assistance of the United Nation Assistance Mission for Iraq, then announced the results, which were recently certified by the Federal Supreme Court.

On 8 June 2014, with encouragement from several actors, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), an entity that is included in the international list of terrorist organizations, took control of the ancient city of Mosul, the capital of Ninawa governorate. It then pushed south towards towns and villages where Iraqis had exercised their democratic right to vote.

ISIL has since been terrorizing citizens, carrying out mass executions, persecuting minorities and women, and destroying mosques, shrines and churches. This group now threatens several governorates, including Baghdad, thanks to external support and the influx of thousands of foreign terrorists of various nationalities from across the border in Syria.

In other parts of our country, particularly the western governorate of Anbar, ISIL is carrying out organized military operations across the Syrian border and controls a number of border crossings.

The threat of ISIL is not new to us. Iraq has been subjected to terrorist attacks for nearly a decade by Al-Qaida, which has renamed itself ISIL. The situation has become more serious over the past two years, as ISIL has repeatedly launched attacks against Iraqi territory from eastern Syria. Hundreds of foreign suicide bombers have streamed into Iraq to murder its citizens in their markets, mosques, churches, playgrounds and schools.

We have previously requested the assistance of the international community. While we are grateful for what has been done to date, it has not been enough. We therefore call on the United Nations and the international community to recognize the serious threat our country and the international order are facing. These international terrorist groups seek to eliminate borders, exacerbate violence and fan the flames of civil war. On the other hand, the Iraqi Government is seeking to avoid falling into a cycle of violence. To that end, we need your support in order to defeat ISIL and protect our territory and people. In particular, we call on Member States to assist us by providing military training, advanced technology and the weapons required to respond to the situation, with a view to denying terrorists staging areas and safe havens.

We should like you to understand that the need is urgent, particularly at our western borders, which have become a staging ground and a magnet for terrorists from around the world.

As it fights against the networks of ISIL, the Government of Iraq reaffirms that it continues to respect human rights, as set out in the Constitution and international conventions, and that it remains committed to the constitutional process, pursuant to which the new Council of Representatives will soon meet. Through that process, we will endeavour to form a new Government that represents all communities in Iraq and all components of Iraqi society. We are also committed to continuing along the path of democracy and serving as an example to the peoples of the Middle East, a region that is witnessing political changes. Iraq is furthermore committed to becoming a pillar of international friendship and a country that supplies energy to and builds sound commercial relations with the world.

At this critical juncture, we are facing a serious threat from international terrorist organizations. We therefore request urgent assistance from the international community. This assistance should be provided in accordance with those bilateral and multilateral agreements that were approved by the Iraqi Government through its constitutional institutions. It must also be given with full respect for the principle of national sovereignty and the Iraqi Constitution, and in accordance with Security Council resolution 1770 (2007), which gives Iraq the right to resort to the United Nations as it deems appropriate for the country, its interests and sovereignty, and in a manner that does not undermine its sovereignty.

Lastly, we call on all Member States to act urgently to cut off all recruitment assistance and the vast amounts of financial, media and other forms of support that are being given to ISIL.

During the past year, Iraq endured more than 300 suicide bombings that killed thousands of innocent Iraqis. We believe that all those attacks were carried out by foreign recruits who were sent to Iraq from Syria by the networks of ISIL.

ISIL is proud of these attacks and boasts of the nationalities of the suicide attackers, who come from the Middle East, Europe and North America.

This wave of mass killing in Iraq and other countries in the region and the world is an international problem and requires a collective response. We hope that the United Nations will help in organizing the fight against this onslaught as soon as possible.

We also request the United Nations to consider what Iraq and other countries are going through at the hands of the gangs of ISIL and Al-Qaida as genocide. Accordingly, the international community must stand by those States, which are Members of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Hoshyar **Zebari**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq